

HONORING OUR NATION'S FARMERS AND CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, next week, March 17, 2002, we celebrate National Agriculture Week. From the apple orchards of upstate New York and cattle ranches of Texas, to the farm belt of the Midwest and rice fields of California, we are a nation built by farmers and ranchers. We take this week to honor those who produce our food and fiber, and to call attention to what needs to be done to protect our agricultural heritage, our way of life and our safe and plentiful food supply. It is the strength of this agricultural community that has made the United States the "bread basket of the world."

My home of California is our nation's most productive agricultural producers, producing more than \$27 billion worth of product each year. The people of our state and nation benefit from this agricultural bounty every day in affordable, high-quality food, fiber, flowers and forest products.

Farmers are good stewards of the land and take pride in their work to protect the environment. Farmers and ranchers care for the land in many ways—from sustainable forestry practices to sound and safe pest management programs and grazing programs.

Farmers are also good conservationists, and have written the book on doing more with less. In the last 30 years, agriculture's share of water has remained constant, but farmers and ranchers have boosted production on a tonnage basis an impressive 67 percent during the same period. Farmers provide habitat for many species of wildlife, including the waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway. Many farmers are working towards better and more environmentally friendly methods of pest control—such as box homes for bats and barn owls, or pest resistant plants and bacteria that combat pests while reducing the reliance on pesticides.

In addition to their environmental benefits, farmers, ranchers, vintners and other members of the agricultural community are an important part of California's economy. A University of California study recently found that farmers generate about \$59 billion in personal income for Californians or 6.6 percent of the state's annual personal income. California agriculture also contributes 1.1 million jobs to the state, about 7 percent of the total workforce.

It is my great honor and pleasure to represent many of the men and women of California Agriculture in this House. Please join me next week in recognizing their contributions and thanking them for all they do to make this great nation what it is today.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of America, who recently celebrated their 90th Anniversary.

Girl Scouting began on March 12, 1912. The founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Girl Scout meeting. The group was brought together because of her belief that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually.

The Girl Scouts' mission is to help all girls grow strong. To that end, Girl Scouting empowers girls to develop to their full potential; relate positively to others; develop values that provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to society. Through the years, the Girl Scouts have continued to address contemporary issues affecting girls, while maintaining its core values. The organization's foundation is still based on the Girl Scouts' Promise and Law, just as it was in 1912.

Today, the Girl Scouts of America has a membership of 2.7 million girl members and over 900,000 adult members. In the state of Arkansas the Girl Scouts is 18,000 girl members and 7,000 adult members strong. They promote many beneficial programs, such as in-school scouting, and also promote qualities including diversity and responsibility. This program is one of the few private programs to still teach patriotism and the democratic process. The qualities that girls learn from this organization helps to guarantee a brighter future for Arkansas and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to honor the Girl Scouts of America.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND OUR SEPTEMBER 11TH FIREFIGHTERS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2002 the people of Kansas City will once again participate in the wearing of the Green and celebrate our Irish heritage. The tradition dates back to the 1800's and has grown to the third largest St. Patrick's celebration in the United States. This will be a St. Patrick's Day Parade like no other as participants and spectators will be wearing green, but seeing red, white, and blue. Our honored guests will be members of the New York's Port Authority, Police Department, and Fire Department.

On September 11, 2001, these brave first responders put their lives on the line for individuals in the World Trade Towers and surrounding structures. We at the Capitol watched in horror with the plane attack on Tower II, and felt the impact of the attack on the Pentagon. The world observed the courage and a selflessness of these men and women who rush to danger so that others will survive. Americans watched with pride and tears cognizant of the loss of life and families that would forever be altered.

As a community, we have witnessed the bravery of our own first responders. Kansas Citians along with the rest of our Nation volunteered their services in the 9/11 rescue efforts. Locally, the firefighter's boot became the means for every citizen to contribute to the relief of the 9/11 survivors. I attended the New

York Giants v. Kansas City Chiefs game at Arrowhead Stadium, and witnessed an emotional tribute and the generosity as I, along with my firefighters, collected donations from fans. I consider this a privilege especially after having witnessed the devastation of ground zero. The representatives from New York who are participating in the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade and the people of New York have the respect and admiration of us all.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, I will participate as one of over 200 entries in the third largest parade in the Nation. As a proud American, I ask that you join the citizens of Kansas City as we salute our heroes of 9/11 and especially our honored guests from New York participating in the parade:

From the Port Authority: Officers Frank Dowd, Bob Moore, Brian Dunwoody, John O'Donnell, and Patrick Harty.

From the New York Police Department: Detective Steve Eizikowitz, Detective Mike Davis, Kevin Douthit, and Patrick Kelly.

From the Fire Department of New York: Lieutenant Joe Huber, Carl Punzone, Bob Fraumeni, and Josh Lomask.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring our first responders throughout the United States, as we observe the courage of St. Patrick.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Congressional Scouting Caucus I wish to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on the occasion of their 90th anniversary.

When I was a boy, I thought girls were icky. And as a boy I thought all Girl Scouts did was camp, sell cookies and do crafts. Well, I have dramatically changed my opinion about girls, and the Girl Scouts have changed as well.

Today, the Girl Scouts is three million girls strong, with 900,000 adults volunteers. Girl Scouts now can earn merit badges that develop skills in chemistry, math, marketing, sports, computer science, aerospace and the environment.

The Girl Scouts have developed programs that deal with the real problems young women face today. The Girl Scouts are actively working to discourage teen pregnancy, cultivate girls whose parents are incarcerated, mentor disadvantaged young women and encourage the academic achievement that will be so critical in their future.

These programs expose girls from all walks of life to all the wonderful possibilities open to them in work, play, and service to others. The Girl Scouts develop healthy interests, skills and habits that serve young women for a lifetime.

It is a long, long way from when Juliette Lowe founded the Girl Scouts on March 12 of 1912. But 90 years later the Girl Scouts are still teaching the basic values contained in the Girl Scout law: "to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I